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FLOOR DEBATE

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intensive supervised probation. Their options are to go to the Work Ethic Camp or go to prison. That's their two options. ISP is something they might do after they get out of McCook, but they're not eligible for it before they get there. And I have some figures here, the latest figures in 2003, and I thank the numerous senators who came out to McCook last summer and fall and visited the Work Ethic Camp. And I...Senator Synowiecki, if you've not been out there, I'd really encourage you to come out and look it over. It's a unique facility. It's getting national attention now. It's over capacity. The latest figures I have, it is at 108 percent of capacity. Folks, we've done a good job educating through the discussion process, part of which occurred on the floor here, but also the Attorney General was out. I know the district judges have been sent numerous letters from various entities and the Attorney General's Office. It's now at 108 percent of capacity. It's overfull. And it's a very unique situation, opportunity. I look at it as an opportunity for these offenders. As I said, they're not eligible for ISP. They're eligible to go one of two places--Work Ethic Camp or behind the walls. And those beds are going to cost us \$30,000, \$40,000, you know, on an annual basis, whereas we're treating these people, most of them I think, without misspeaking, about 70 percent of them are substance abusers. They go out there and are treated and work through the system. There's also a major benefit from the Work Ethic Camp to the local political subdivisions. They have put in, this was in 2003, 44,051 hours of public service out there, working in cemeteries, fairgrounds, the lake areas, Game and Parks, roads, you name it. These people are not sitting out there doing nothing behind the fence. There is a fence out there at McCook, no bars, no walls, but these people are out there working. They have their own gardens. I'm telling you, you ought to come out and see this. Senator Aguilar was out last summer. It's amazing what they're doing to these people. Some of them, in some certain cases I've talked to people who do not want to leave. They have a structure out there at Work Ethic Camp. They have considered those people working with them, the staff, their family, and they...in a couple of cases, they've manufactured some reasons to stay there an extra month or so after they are actually eligible to go home. So it's working. And I'm with Senator Pedersen, I'm going to let LB 46, I believe was the community